

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 306289
ORIGIN SS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /006 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O/SESTEINER

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:SESTEINER

-----005024 231855Z /50

O 231835Z DEC 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCEUR IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

DOD IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 306289

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOGADISCIO 2195 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
ADDIS ABABA GENEVA NAOROB 221135Z DEC

QUOTE

UNCLAS MOGADISCIO 2195

PASS AID/W FOR OFDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, SO

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR AIRLIFTED FLOOD RELIEF EQUIPMENT

REFS: A) MOGADISCIO 2181; B) STATE 304437

1. REFTEL A REQUEST WAS MADE FOLLOWING CAREFUL CONSULTATION WITH THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES IN MOGADISCIO, TO WIT THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR FLOOD RELIEF, AND UNDP EXPERTS WHO HAVE VISITED THE SCENE AND ACTED AS ADVISORS AND COORDINATORS FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. GOVT. OF SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC APPROACHED THE EMBASSY FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECIFIC SUPPORT ONLY WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT OTHER DONORS COULD NOT MEET EXISTING NEEDS.

2. PROMPTED BY REFTEL B WE HAVE AGAIN CONSULTED HERE AND OFFER THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ITEMS REQUESTED:

A. TENTS. THE NORTHERN STRETCHES OF THE FLOODED AREA, THE BOALE DISTRICT, HAS FEW HIGHER ELEVATION VILLAGES. ALTHOUGH REFUGEES WHO HAVE SOUGHT HIGH GROUND SANCTUARIES MAY BY NOW HAVE FASHIONED SOME EMERGENCY SHELTERS, THESE ARE NOT VERY SATISFACTORY FOR THE LONGER TERM. MOREOVER, AUTHORITIES NEED LARGE TENTS FOR TEMPORARY DISPENSARIES, FOOD DISTRIBUTION POINTS, AND RECEPTION CENTERS.

B. BOATS. SOMALI AUTHORITIES HAVE PRESSED INTO SERVICE FISHING CRAFT AND SMALL BOATS FROM THE PORT OF CHISIMAYU. EXISTING CRAFT, HOWEVER, NOT SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE COMMUNICATION TO THE HIGH GROUND REFUGE SITES CREATED BY THE FLOOD. THE COMMUNICATION PROBLEM IS FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY THE INTERMITTENT BREAKS IN THE MAIN HIGHWAY WHERE TRUCK CARGOS MUST BE FERRIED ACROSS STRETCHES OF WATER. IN MANY PLACES CURRENT IS FLOWING AT 4 KNOTS THUS REQUIRING MOTOR ASSIST IF ANY AMOUNT OF WEIGHT IS TO BE CARRIED.

3. BRITISH ENGINEERS WORKING ON THE MURIRI SUGAR PROJECT NOW ESTIMATE HIGH WATER LEVELS MAY PREVAIL FOR ANOTHER SIX WEEKS. THE GSDR ESTIMATE, ADMITTEDLY NON-EXPERT, IS THAT HIGH WATER MAY LAST FOUR WEEKS.

4. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS OFDA LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY
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OF ACQUIRING ALUMINIUM CRAFT IN AREA OF TENT STOCKPILE. ONE AIRLIFTED CARGO OF TENTS AND BOATS PROVIDED ON EXPEDITIOUS BASIS WOULD BE MORE DESIREABLE THAN CASH DONATION. ALTHOUGH MONEY IS ALWAYS USEFUL, WHAT GSDR NEEDS NOW IS RELIEF EQUIPMENT DELIVERED AS CLOSE TO THE SCENE OF THE ACTUAL FLOODING AS POSSIBLE. LOUGHRAN
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EQUIPMENT, FLOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE306289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O/SESTEINER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770480-0075
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771220/aaaaaqtx.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ecb5cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOGADISCIO 2181, 77 STATE 304437
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 136920
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR AIRLIFTED FLOOD RELIEF EQUIPMENT
TAGS: SWEL, SO
To: USCINCEUR JCS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ecb5cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009